


 REIHŌ FUJI

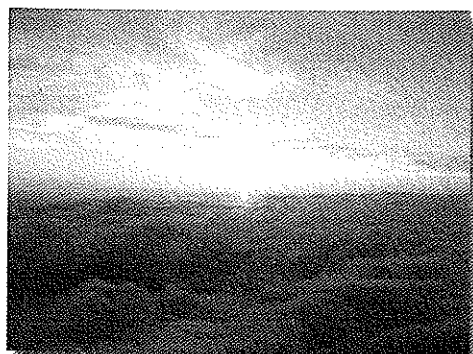
FUJIYOSHIDA CITY NEWS

We Love Mt. Fuji!

2008 Mt. Fuji Yoshidaguchi Trail Climbing Issue

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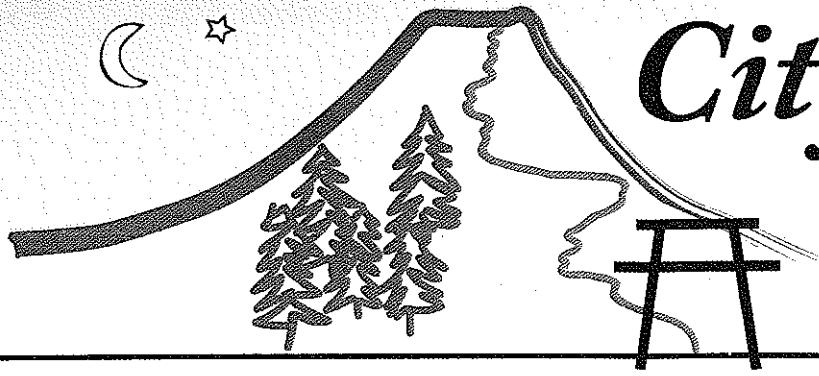
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Mt. Fuji official climbing season is July 1st through August 31st 2008. This year, over 200,000 people are expected to climb the Yoshidaguchi trail that starts in Fujiyoshida City. Including the registration on UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage Review list, Mt. Fuji's popularity continues to grow.

The Yoshidaguchi trail starts at Fuji Sengen Shrine in Fujiyoshida City and ascends 2,926 meters over 17 kilometers to the summit. The entire traditional climb may be completed in about 10 hours and 50 minutes. The climb from the Subaru Line 5th station to the summit, which covers 1,472 vertical meters over 5.8 kilometers, may be completed in about 5 hours. Along the way climbers will enjoy stunning views of the Fuji Five Lakes, friendly mountain hut inn-keepers, and above a sea of clouds, one of the most spectacular sunrises on the planet.

2008 promises to be another great climbing season.



City Page

July - August 2008

Chamonix-Fujiyoshida 30th Year Sister City Anniversary.

This year celebrates 150 years of France-Japan relations, as well as 30 years of Chamonix-Fujiyoshida sister city relations. Scheduled events include a visit by the Fujiyoshida Chorus to Chamonix this August, and a visit by the Fujikaen Taiko team, and a delegation including the Mayor of Fujiyoshida this October to Chamonix Mr Yokoyama Hidemi of the Chamonix Tourist Organization and Mr. Bernard Prud'homme, Chamonix Tourism Office General Manager visited Fujiyoshida in late May to help finalize plans and give their greetings to Mayor Horiuchi.



Mr. Prud'homme, Mr. Yokoyama, with two acquaintances from Chamonix visit with Mayor Horiuchi, Vice Mayor Omata, city promotion section officials Mr. Watanabe, Mr. Miyashita, and Fujiyoshida International Friendship Association president Mr. Osano

MT. FUJI IS OPEN FOR THE SEASON!



Have a safe climb!

For questions or concerns please contact the Fujiyoshida City Hall International Affairs Desk.

iadfuji@city.fujiyoshida.lg.jp

Help keep Fuji clean, please pack out all trash.

From the Editor...

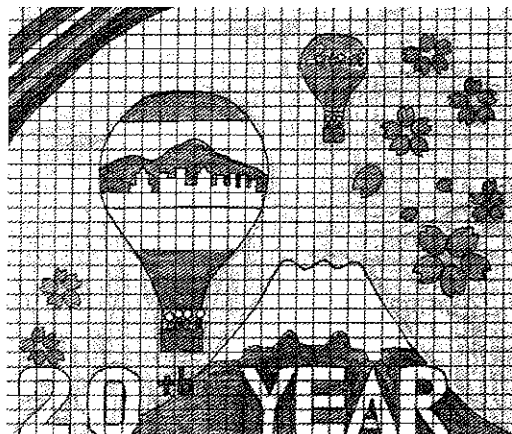
No matter how I may try to run and hide, no matter how much I try to ignore it, though it is sometimes covered in clouds, I still know it is there; Mt. Fuji; always beaming down from it's 3776 meter summit, a perfect cone volcano. It is the reason why Fujiyoshida originally boomed and became the town it is today; years ago, back when rice had not been engineered to grow at high altitudes, when only wheat would grow, and the favorite dish to satisfy climbers was thick and hearty udon noodles; Mt. Fuji was the reason for the pilgrims' inns that still line the streets of Kamiyoshida (upper Fujiyoshida), and the over 60 Yoshida Udon shops that still serve the tasty udon noodles in hot bowls of miso soup today. Though its source is sometimes hidden, Fujiyoshida indeed, exists because of Mt. Fuji; it's natural environment giving the people below fresh air and clean delicious water, and bringing thousands of people from around the world to marvel at and climb its steep slopes.

Currently there is much activity about trying to get Mt. Fuji into UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage list, not as a nature park, but as a group of various locations including shrines, pilgrims' inns, and naturally occurring lava tube caves, that represent the history of Mt. Fuji that nurtured its unique culture. So the best of luck to all that are helping with the World Cultural Heritage effort

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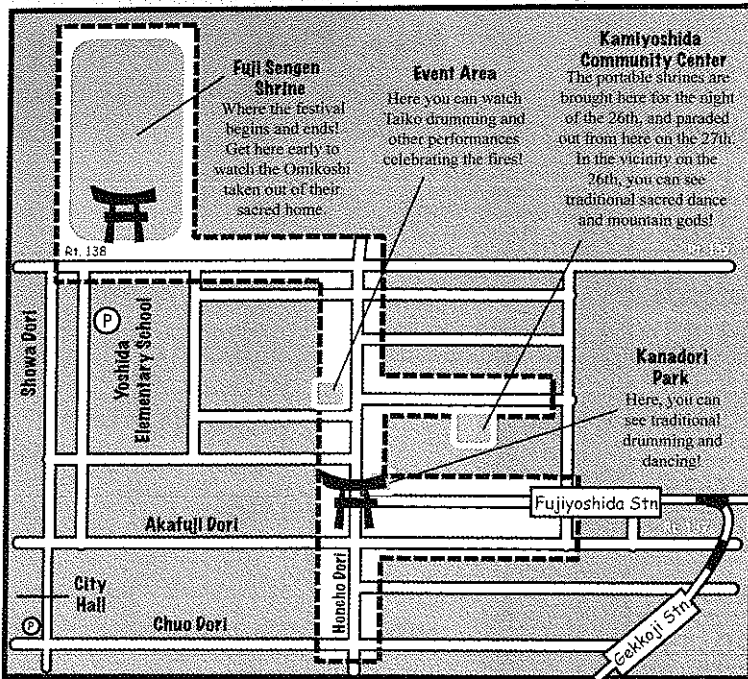
Colorado Springs Homestay Program 20th Anniversary.

Plans continue for the 20th Anniversary celebrations in Colorado Springs this August 2nd. Including the yearly group of 16 Junior High Homestay students from Fujiyoshida, a small delegation from Fujiyoshida will travel to Colorado Springs to help with the celebration. Planned events include a memorial to Madolia Mills, long-time supporter of Fujiyoshida-Colorado Springs exchange events, and a milk carton mosaic project, where homestay members and families will string together 900 painted milk cartons to form an illustration! Proposed illustration was created by Fujiyoshida local junior high student



Winning milk carton mosaic design by Fuji Yoshida Junior High school student, WATANABE Risa

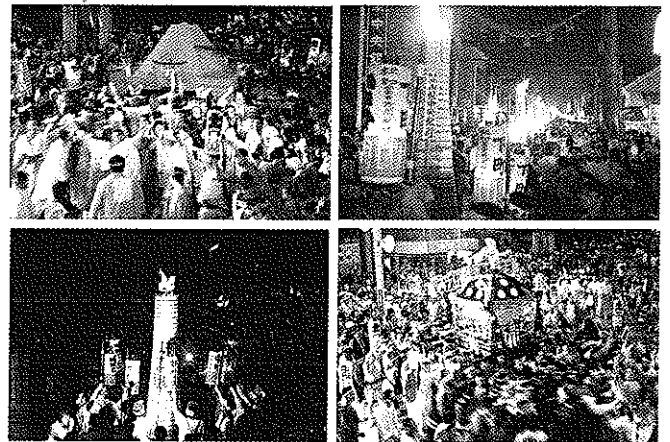
Yoshida no Himatsuri; Fire Festival August 26th and 27th in Fujiyoshida



Schedule:

Sunday, August 26th (Himatsuri)
 -2pm festival start at Fuji Sengen Shrine.
 -2:30pm to 5pm mikoshis are carried through Kamiyoshida area.
 -5pm cutting of the rope at Kamiyoshida community center.
 -6pm torches are lit.
 -Taiko performance
 -10pm day one festival ends.

Monday, August 27th (Susuki Matsuri)
 -2pm festival starts and mikoshis are carried back to Fuji Sengen Shrine.
 -5pm finale at Sengen Shrine



Fire Festival Area! (P) = parking**

**With participants numbering in the tens of thousands (and major roads blocked off) it is a good idea to come to the Fire Festival by bus or train.

Local Lunch: Fujiyoshida Udon!

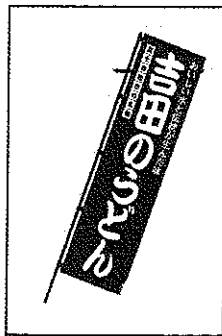
Looking for lunch in Fujiyoshida? With over 50 udon shops in the city, you will certainly have the chance to fill your belly enjoying this delicious and inexpensive local specialty: Udon (One bowl costs about ¥350) While in town, make sure that you do not miss out on the best tasting vittles at the foot of Japan's highest peak!

WHERE: Shops are not easy to recognize as they are typically set inside regular homes. However, instead of walking into a stranger's living room and demanding they make you lunch, look for the traditional noren hanging over the entrance, as well as a flag proclaiming "Yoshida Udon". If you see them, you are sure to be at the right place. Also getting a "Yoshida Udon Map" from Fujiyoshida City Hall, the Tourist Information Center at Fujiyoshida Station or other fine venues will aid in your quest.

NOODLE LINGO: Knowing a few words will make your order quite easy. There are usually, 2 sizes are served. "Futsu" for regular, "Dai" for large.

There are many types of udon (each shop serves its own special variety!), but below are some of the basics:

Kake	かけ	Basic noodles and soup
Tsuke	つけ	Hot soup with noodles on the side
Niku	肉	Noodles, soup, and beef
Tempura	天ぷら	Batter-fried vegetables and seafood
Nikuten	肉天	Beef and Tempura toppings
Kitsune	きつね	Fried sweet tofu
Yumori	湯盛り	Boiling water and bonito flakes



Look for this flag to find an Udon shop near you!

Sightseeing

Fujiyoshida Local History Museum- Learn more about Fujiyoshida and its local culture! You can also learn about the importance of Mt. Fuji to the Japanese people. Displays are in Japanese only. Admission: Adults- ¥300, Students- ¥150. Open 9:30-17:00, Tuesday-Sunday

Mt. Fuji Radar Dome Museum- Capped with the original radar dome that had served its time at the summit of Mt. Fuji, the Radar Dome Museum pays tribute to the science of meteorology and the scientists who strove to build a radar research facility on the top of Japan's highest mountain. Admission: Adults- ¥600, Students- ¥400. Open 9:30-17:00, Wednesday-Monday

Chureito Peace Pagoda- This pagoda was built on a hilltop facing Mt. Fuji. One can get a great view of Mt. Fuji and the city of Fujiyoshida from this point.

Mt. Fuji Visitors Center- Want to learn more about Mt. Fuji? Check out the Mt. Fuji Visitor's Center for many interactive displays, videos, and books in different languages about Japan's tallest mountain. Admission is free. Open 9:00-17:30, Tuesday-Sunday

Fuji Sengen Shrine- This was the original starting point for the many pilgrims who came to climb Mt. Fuji since long ago. The main shrine was built in the year 788 in order to protect the people who live around the mountain. This shrine is also the starting and ending point of the Fujiyoshida Fire Festival.

Gekkoji Park- A pleasant little park located in the heart of Fujiyoshida's old town district. It is a wonderful place to take a stroll and relax. Footsteps away from the Omuro Sengen Shrine.

Mt. Fuji Climbing Bus Schedule

From Kawaguchiko Station to Fuji Subaru Line 5th Station
1500yen one way, 2000yen round trip

Departs Kawaguchiko
Station; 55 min ride

*	7:20
*	8:30
	9:40
	10:25
	11:15
	12:10
	13:10
	14:30
	15:20
*	16:20
	17:35
*	18:20
*	19:45
	21:15

Departs 5th Station
Station; 50 min ride

*	8:30
*	9:35
	10:45
	11:30
	12:20
	13:15
	14:45
	15:35
	16:25
*	17:25
	18:35
*	19:25
*	20:45
*	22:10

Runs every day 7/1-8/31

*indicates every day service from 7/12-8/31

Getting to the 5th Station



Fuji Subaru Line Closed to Private Vehicles.

2008

9th Aug (Sat)-18th Aug(Mon)

AND

23rd Aug (Sat)-24th Aug(Sun)

Free Parking at Hokuroku Park in Fujiyoshida
and 5th station bus service available.

2 buses daily between Shinjuku (Tokyo) and
Mt. Fuji 5th Station. 2600yen one way.
Approx. 2.5 hour ride. Reservations and
information (in Japanese): Keio Highway Bus
Center 03-5376-2222 www.highwaybus.com

Departs Shinjuku

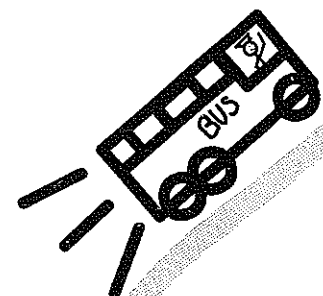
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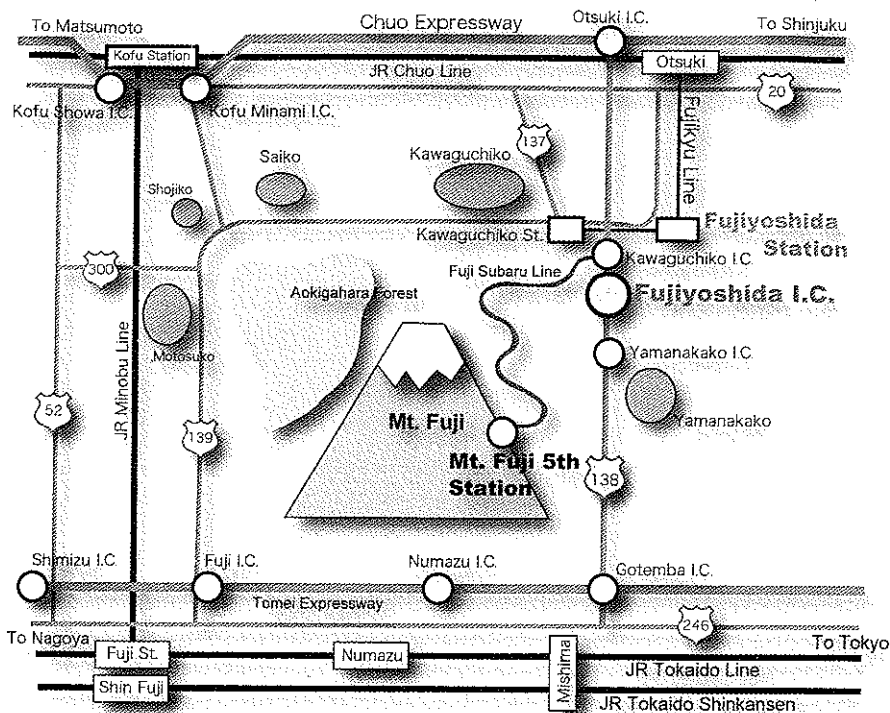
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Departs 5th Station

14:00

16:00





By Train

Shinjuku JR Chuo Line 1 hour 40 minutes Otsuki Fujikyuu Line 50 minutes Fujiyoshida

Shinjuku Odakyu Line 1 hour 40 minutes Gotemba Bus 1 hour 10 minutes Fujiyoshida

By Car or Bus (Using Tomei Expressway)

Tokyo 83km Gotemba 10km Subashiri 9.5km Yamanakako 8.5km Fujiyoshida

Osaka Nagoya 187.3km Fuji (I.C.) 64km Kawaguchiko
225km Gotemba 10km Subashiri 9.5km Yamanakako 8.5km Fujiyoshida

By Car or Bus (Using Chuo Expressway)

Shinjuku 85km Kawaguchiko Shinjuku Chuo Highway Bus 1 hour 45 min Fujiyoshida

Yoshidaguchi Mountain Huts (July-Aug.)

*dail area code (0555) before all 6 digit numbers
Mountain huts usually employ English speakers during climbing season.

Station	Mountain Hut	Base (off-season)	Direct (July-Aug.)
8.5	Goraikokan	84-2179	24-6510
	Hachigome Tomoekan	73-1310	24-6511
8	Fujisan Hotel	22-0237	24-6512
	Gansomuro	24-6153	24-6513
	Hakuun-so	22-1322	24-6514
	Horaikan	22-3498	24-6515
	Taishikan	22-1947	24-6516
	Toyokan	22-1040	24-6517
7	Torii-so	84-2050	24-6518
	Fujiichikan	24-6513	080-1036-6691
	Kamaiwakan	22-2383	24-6520
	Nanagome Tomoekan	73-1310	24-6521
	Hinodekan	22-0396	24-6522
	Hana Goya	22-2208	24-6523
6	Satomidaira *Seikanso	24-6090	24-6524
5	Sato Goya	23-1807	090-2522-2634

Gear-up for climbing Mt. Fuji

Hiking Boots

One should have durable shoes or boots that cover the ankles and have thick soles. Make sure to tie shoes or boots securely to avoid ankle rubbing.

Clothing

Warm, layered, and easy to wear clothing is best. Prepare a fleece or sweater outer layer, and warm under layers that wick away sweat and moisture. Other necessary clothing include wind breakers, hats to protect from the sun and to keep one's head warm, and gaiters for when descending the mountain to keep sand and pebbles out of shoes.

Gloves

There are places around the 7th and 8th stations that require scrambling over rock surfaces; gloves will protect the hands from injuries, and keep them warm.

Flashlight/headlamp

Necessary for climbing at night. Headlamps free the hands.

Water

Water is not readily available on Mt. Fuji. Mountain huts have a supply of water, but one bottle may cost 500yen. Be sure to bring at least 500-1000ml per person.

Food/snacks

Easy to eat food that quickly regains lost energy is best.

Backpack

A backpack that is light, fits the body, and can be carried for a long time is an indispensable climbing companion.

Rain Gear

Rain can occur without warning on Mt. Fuji. It is good to prepare full upper and lower water-proof rain gear.

Cash

For mountain huts, food, water, and services on the mountain.

Sunglasses

To protect from harmful UV rays.

Other

Medical/Insurance card, band-aids, sunscreen, cell phone, warmer packets, small towel, etc.

*Please take all garbage home with you. Help us keep Mt. Fuji beautiful.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Yamanashi 5th Station General Management Center...0555-72-1477

Mt. Fuji Safety Guidance Center (Yoshidaguchi 6th Station July-Aug.) ...0555-24-6223

For English Inquiry

Fujiyoshida Tourist Information Center 0555-22-7000

International Affairs Desk, Fujiyoshida City Hall (Mon-Fri 8:30 -5:30) 0555-24-1236

More information at: www.city.fujiyoshida.yamanashi.jp/div/english/html

Food and Drink

Michael's American Pub- Lookin' for a place that reminds you of your favorite watering hole back home? Look no further Michael's serves up burgers, brews, and stiff drinks in a real American atmosphere! Football games or live concerts are played on the TV as you enjoy the company of both local residents and expatriates. Open 18:00-02:00, Friday-Wednesday. Now offering lunch from 11:30-3:00!

Torinobo- This lively yakitori, (chicken on a stick) joint offers Yebisu beer on tap, loads of cocktails and an English menu. Recommended is the ramen and daikon salad! 0555-24-9411

Izakaya Kubota- This retro izakaya, (Japanese pub) has an ever-changing menu at never-changing low prices! Located near the Fujiyoshida Youth Hostel, this is the perfect place to unwind before retiring for the day. English menu available (0555) 22-9737

Sakigake- Moody lighting, cozy interior, a friendly staff, innovative recipes and a huge selection of shochu from all over Japan, are some of the things that make Sakigake one of the most popular spots in Fujiyoshida. A new branch in Kawaguchiko recently opened! Closed on Sundays. Call for reservations: 090-3815-6405

Miura Ryori-ten- Fujiyoshida's culinary gem! French food is the main here, with specialty pastas and Thai curries at lunchtime. The wine selection is massive, and the carefully-crafted dishes are delicious. Call for reservations: 090-7726-1230

Fujiyama Beer- Come enjoy Fujiyoshida's own microbrews! Located next to the Mt. Fuji Radar Dome Museum, the Fujiyama Brewery serves up a variety of original entrees and cold, frosty brews made only with the finest malts and natural spring water. Check out the website at <http://www.city.fujiyoshida.yamanashi.jp/div/english/html/fjybeer.html>. Call for group reservations (0555) 24-4800

Cafe Matsuya- A relaxing atmosphere that offers several blends of freshly-roasted coffees and snacks. Penny candies and cheap wireless internet access is also a plus! Food items include an authentic grilled cheese sandwich and chili. Located close to the Fujiyoshida Youth Hostel (0555) 22-5185

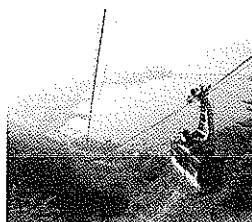
JJIBABA- A nice American style restaurant with an amazing menu that includes Thai curry, garlic grilled chicken, pizza, pasta, and a large assortment of drinks. Pool table available. Just down from Royal Host a short walk from Sengen Shrine. 0555-20-1575

Fujiyoshida Summer Festival



Celebrated July 26, Saturday in downtown Fujiyoshida. The entire city comes out to roam the streets in summer kimono (yukata) and enjoy festival vendor food and entertainment. Activities start from around 5pm at Yamanashi Chuo Bank in Fujiyoshida near Gekkoji Station.

Kachi Kachi Ropeway



Enjoy great views of Kawaguchiko, Mt. Fuji and the Fuji 5 Lakes!



Ropeway Info

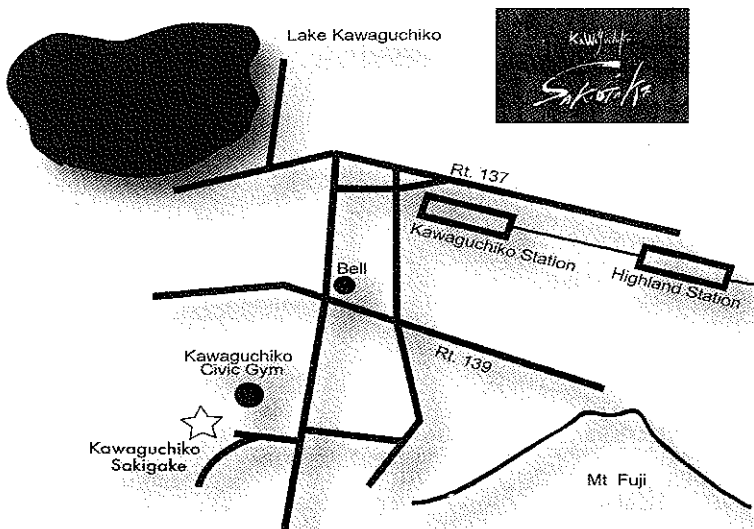


Round Trip
Adult- ¥700
Child- ¥350

Summer Hours
9AM-5:20PM
(Will be open from
9AM-9PM on August 5th
for fireworks viewing!)

One-way
Adult-¥400
Child-¥200

Summer Organic Recommendation: Sakigake Kawaguchiko



The Food: Specializing in Japanese Organic.

The Building: New as of July 2006; using local materials from Fujisan. Tiny front door.

Chef Recommends: Herb Green Mustard Grilled Chicken 960yen. Genmai Chahan (Fried Rice) 900yen. Yakitori/Kushiyaki: Piman (bell-pepper) Cheese, Myoga, Enoki (mushroom), Tomato, Miira (onion) Okura, 130yen per stick.

Drinks: Japanese Organic Beer. Organic Fruit Juices; Peach, Guava, Apricot.

Hours: Open daily from 6-11:30pm. Closed Wed.

Hot Water Under Fuji

Fuji Area Hot Springs

Fujiyama Onsen ふじやま温泉

Location: Fujiyoshida

Only one year old, this onsen boasts a 12 meter tall main bath house supported by large interlocking wooden beams that require no nails or steel for structural support. Built in a style from the Hiida area in Nagano Prefecture called machia tsukuri, the structure creates a warm and comfortable atmosphere. Including vanadium rich water from Mt. Fuji, Fujiyama Onsen has several indoor baths and an outdoor rotemburo. One may also enjoy a Ganbanyoku (stone sauna) or various massage courses for an extra fee. Though it is one of the most elegant onsens in the area, the price may turn some away. Entrance 2000yen. Open 10:00am to 11:00pm everyday. www.fujiyamaonsen.jp

Beni Fuji no Yu 紅富士の湯

Location: Yamanakako

Beni Fuji no Yu is a clean and modern hot spring facility with three indoor baths and two rotemburo. Great views of Mt. Fuji paint the backdrop on clear days. Additional facilities include a steam room, a dry sauna, a cold bath, and a waterfall shower. Though one of the largest and most popular onsens in the area, some say the size can make it impersonal. Winter schedule: Open 06:00-21:00, closed on Tuesdays. 700 yen for adults, 500 yen for students. www.benifuji.co.jp

Ishiwari no Yu 石割りの湯

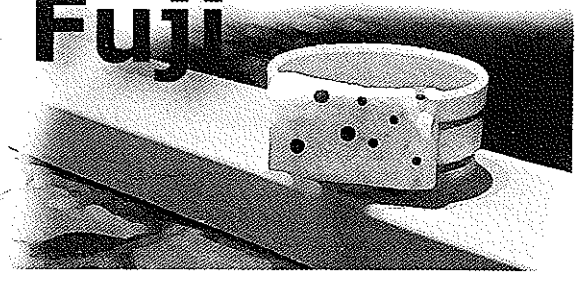
Location: Yamanakako, Hirano Village

A curious, circular building near the shores of Lake Yamanaka houses this hot spring. Though a bit smaller than your average hot spring facility, Ishiwari no Yu has two outdoor baths, a waterfall massage, and a sauna. Located at the start of several hiking courses including the Mt. Ishiwari (1413m) climbing trail, one can enjoy the hot springs after a day of outdoor activity. Open 10:00-21:00, closed on Thursdays. 700 yen for adults, 500 yen for students. www.benifuji.co.jp/ishiwari

Hotel Kaneyamaen ホテル・鐘山園

Location: Fujiyoshida

One of the only places to find a true hot spring is at the Kaneyamaen Hotel located right in Fujiyoshida. 15 years ago, the hotel drilled 1500m deep below their grounds to tap a hot water vein and has since kept its steamy bounty exclusive. For those looking for a great onsen experience, it is the perfect place to splurge. Guests at Hotel Kaneyamaen are free to use the onsen. Lunch/bath plans are available as well. While you're there, make sure to take a stroll through Kaneyamaen's amazing gardens. Call (0555) 22-3168. Open 09:00-22:00. Adults 3150 yen. www.kaneyamaen.com/hospitality/bath.php

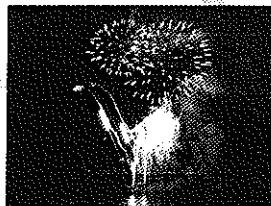


Fuji 5 Lakes Fireworks! August 1-5 2007

August 1st-5th each of the Fuji 5 lakes will host a festival and fireworks show. Festivities begin at 6pm each night, and continue until 9pm. If you are in the 5 lakes area during this time, don't miss the fun!

Schedule:

Friday the 1st - Yamanakako
 Saturday the 2nd - Saiko
 Sunday the 3rd - Motosuko
 Monday the 4th - Shojiko
 Tuesday the 5th - Kawaguchiko

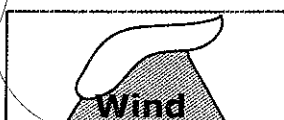
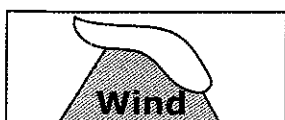


See Events page 8 for more information

Amateur Meteorology!



Wondering whether to bring sunscreen or a raincoat? Although the weather is always changing on Mt. Fuji, take a look at the clouds to get a good guess about how it is up there. Very nice!



Events July and August 2008

July

July 19th, 20th Amateur Band Festival at Kirara in Yamanakako.

July 19th, 20th Eco Party at Solar Cafe/Earth Embassy in Narusawa. Live music and djs, live painting, organic farm tour and activity, and drum workshop by Aaron from Kofu. 5500yen for two days admission. Parking is 1000yen; 500yen for a tent site. More information at: www.fly-camp.net. Also, Jake at Solar cafe is looking for photo shoot models:

We are doing a series of photo shoots at the Solar Cafe in Narusawa (about 15 minutes from Kawaguchiko) this summer for outdoor lifestyle stock photography and need a few models. The shoots will generally be one day each, and pay 10,000yen. If you are interested, we will need one or two photos of you, and some basic info: height, age, shoe size, clothing size (Japanese S,M or L). You can either email me a photo and your info, or stop by the cafe someday and I will take a quick picture of you. We also get an occasional request for extras in TV shows and movies, so I can also have the directors consider you for that if I have your photos and info on hand.

Hope to hear from you soon. Jake Reiner www.earthembassy.org. 090-9346-3774.

PS we especially need some 'silver' aged models in their 50s and 60s, so if you know anyone, please ask them to get in touch with me too.

25th, Friday is the 61st annual Fuji Mountain Race starting at 7am from Fujiyoshida City Hall

26th, Saturday is Fujiyoshida's Summer Festival covering the main street area around Yamanashi Chuo Bank and the Gekkoji Area, starts at 5pm.

August

1-5th, Friday-Tuesday. Fujigoko Fireworks at each of the Fuji 5 Lakes starting with Yamanakako on the 1st, Saiko on the 2nd, Motosuko on the 3rd, Shojiko on the 4th, and Kawaguchiko on the 5th. Fireworks start from 7:30pm to about 9pm, but come early for the festival!

9th, Saturday. Takigi Noh (Japanese Noh) Performance at Fuji Sengen Shrine in Fujiyoshida at the Shrines main stage. Doors open at 4:30pm and show starts at 5:30pm. Tickets start at 4000yen each, and may be purchased at Fujiyoshida Shiminkaikan, Fujikyū Terminal Building, Bell Shopping Center in Kawaguchiko, Fuji Sengen Shrine Office, or from Fujikyū Travel agents. Fuji Sengen Shrine 0555-22-0221.

24, Sunday. Himatsuri Road Race half Marathon from Hokuroku Park in Fujiyoshida. Half marathon, 10k, 5k, and kids' 10k and 5k races start from 10:00am. For more information contact runnet: runnet.jp; 0570-008846.

26th, Tuesday. Yoshida's Fire Festival, yearly Mt Fuji closing ceremony. Catch the Fire Festival, one of Japan's 3 most unique festivals, starting at 3pm from Sengen Shrine with the parade of Omikoshi portable shrines. Fujiyoshida's main street, which starts from close to Fujiyoshida at Kana Dorii (Gate) up to Sengen Shrine is lined with over 80 hand made taimatsu (torches) 3 meters high, that once lit make this traditional, historic, and amazing street festival seem like a sea of fire. Torches will be lit around 7:30pm.

27th, Wednesday. Susuki Matsuri. The not so well known, but unforgettable companion to Yoshida's Fire Festival, Susuki Matsuri, starts at 3pm from the Fujiyoshida Community Center with the return of the Omikoshi to their resting place at Suwa Shrine, next to Sengen Shrine in Fujiyoshida. Susuki Matsuri is highlighted by the running of the shrines around the inner court yard of suwa shrine. It is said that those who run behind the shrines receive the blessings of Mt. Fuji. Don't miss this serene and moving festival.

The Reiho Fuji is a bimonthly publication of Fujiyoshida City Hall. Please send your comments, contributions, and suggestions

Email: iadfuji@city.fujiyoshida.lg.jp

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English Website at: <http://www.city.fujiyoshida.yamanashi.jp/div/english/html/index.htm>